

# ARPA Discretionary Funds Workgroup

Meeting 1: Level Setting and Information Sharing



# Today's Agenda

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- Welcome & introduction
- Overview of sector investments
- Overview of ARPA Discretionary Funds
- Stakeholder survey data
- Recommendations
- Additional considerations
- Closing & next steps



# Welcome & Introductions

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- Purpose
- Deliverable & Outcomes
- Meeting purpose:
  - Meeting 1: Information sharing
  - Meeting 2: Discussion
  - Meeting 3: Finalizing top 2-3 recommendations



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# SECTOR INVESTMENTS



# A Multi-Phase Approach to Child Care Program Recovery, Stabilization and Sustainability

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Phase 1:  
Emergency Response  
(03/17/20 – 06/15/20)

Phase 2:  
Recovery & Stabilization  
(06/15/20 – 12/30/20)

Phase 3:  
Long-term  
Stabilization,  
Sustainability &  
Capacity Building  
(01/01/21 – TBD)



# Investments In Child Care During Covid-19

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To date, over \$100 million has been invested to support NH's child care industry;

- Child Care Scholarship Program Disaster Days
- Family Cost-Share
- Staff Incentives
- Health and Safety Supplies
- Infrastructure & Capacity Building
- Targeted employer child care support
- Absentee billing related to COVID-19
- Full-time rate for school-age care for hours children would have been in school but for COVID-19



## Sources of Funds for COVID Response:

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- ✓ Traditional Child Care Development Funds (CCDF)
- ✓ Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) CARES Act
- ✓ Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery
- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- ✓ American Rescue Plan
- ✓ Philanthropic Partners
- ✓ Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CARES/CRRSA)
- ✓ American Rescue Plan Appropriation (ARPA/CCASP Stabilization and Discretionary)

***This investment continues to support over 800 licensed/license-exempt early childhood and out-of-school time programs across the state, serving over 45,000 children.***



# American Rescue Plan – Real Opportunity to Strengthen the System

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- State of NH received \$77M
- One-time money to the state.
- Two distinct programs:
  - Stabilization - \$47M
    - Committed by September 30, 2022, spent by September 30, 2023.
  - Discretionary - \$29M
    - Committed by September 30, 2023, spent by September 30, 2024.





# Stabilization

- As of September 24, 2021 – 313 programs funded representing all NH counties and serving over 21,000 children on a daily basis
- Lead Agencies (NH DHHS) must release 90% of funds in direct grants to child care providers with a 10% set aside for administrative costs – Includes support/technical assistance to providers (application to final reports); outreach/public awareness
- Applications must be on a rolling basis with awards based on actual operating expenses
- Supports the stability of child care sector during /after COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- 50% of funds must be committed by December 11, 2021, goal met by September 10, 2021
- Required to use funds to maintain/support providers' operating expenses, not direct services:
  - Workforce – wages and benefits
  - Rent and utilities
  - Cleaning and sanitization supplies and services
  - Other goods and services to maintain or resume child care services
  - 25% must be allocated for staff incentives



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# ARPA DISCRETIONARY FUNDS



# Discretionary

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- Does not have to be tied to a COVID need.
- Intended to build the system back stronger.
- Outcome based focus with the intent to:
  - build capacity,
  - strengthen the workforce,
  - create dependability for parents,
  - Match supply and demand
  - Improve quality



Brittany Little

# STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS



# Survey Basics

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- 428 respondents
- Statewide representation
- Variety of coalitions, networks and collaboratives represented
- Representation from a variety of individuals and types of organizations
- Top 5 priorities



# Organizations Represented

Top 4 Organization Responses



# Counties Represented

County	Total
Hillsborough	101
Rockingham	66
Merrimack	59
Statewide	46
Strafford	37
Grafton	28
Belknap	27
Cheshire	27
Sullivan	20
Coos	17
Carroll	13

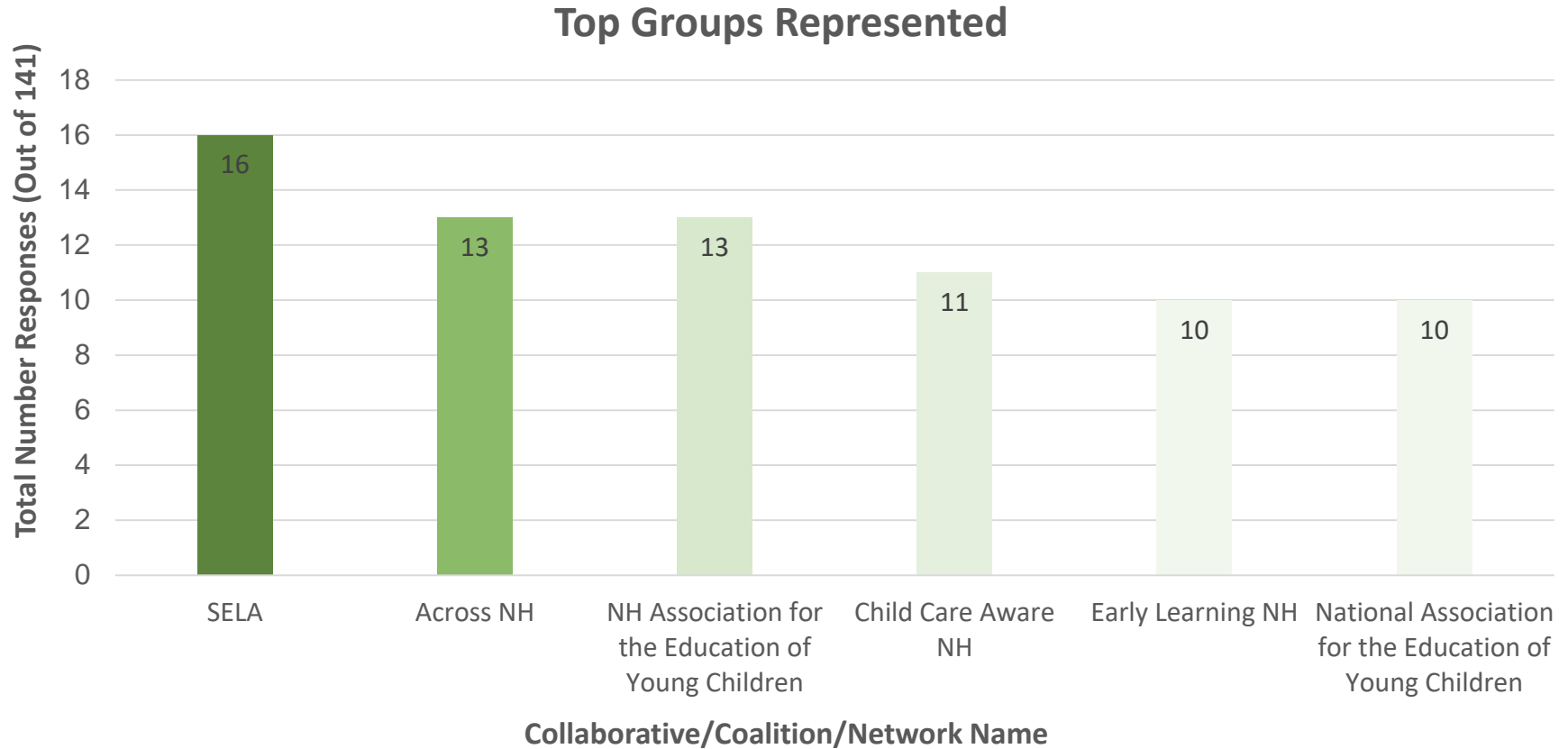
\*Out of 420 responses

\*Some respondents did answer with multiple counties



# Local/Regional Collaboratives, Coalitions, and Networks Represented

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\*412 Responses

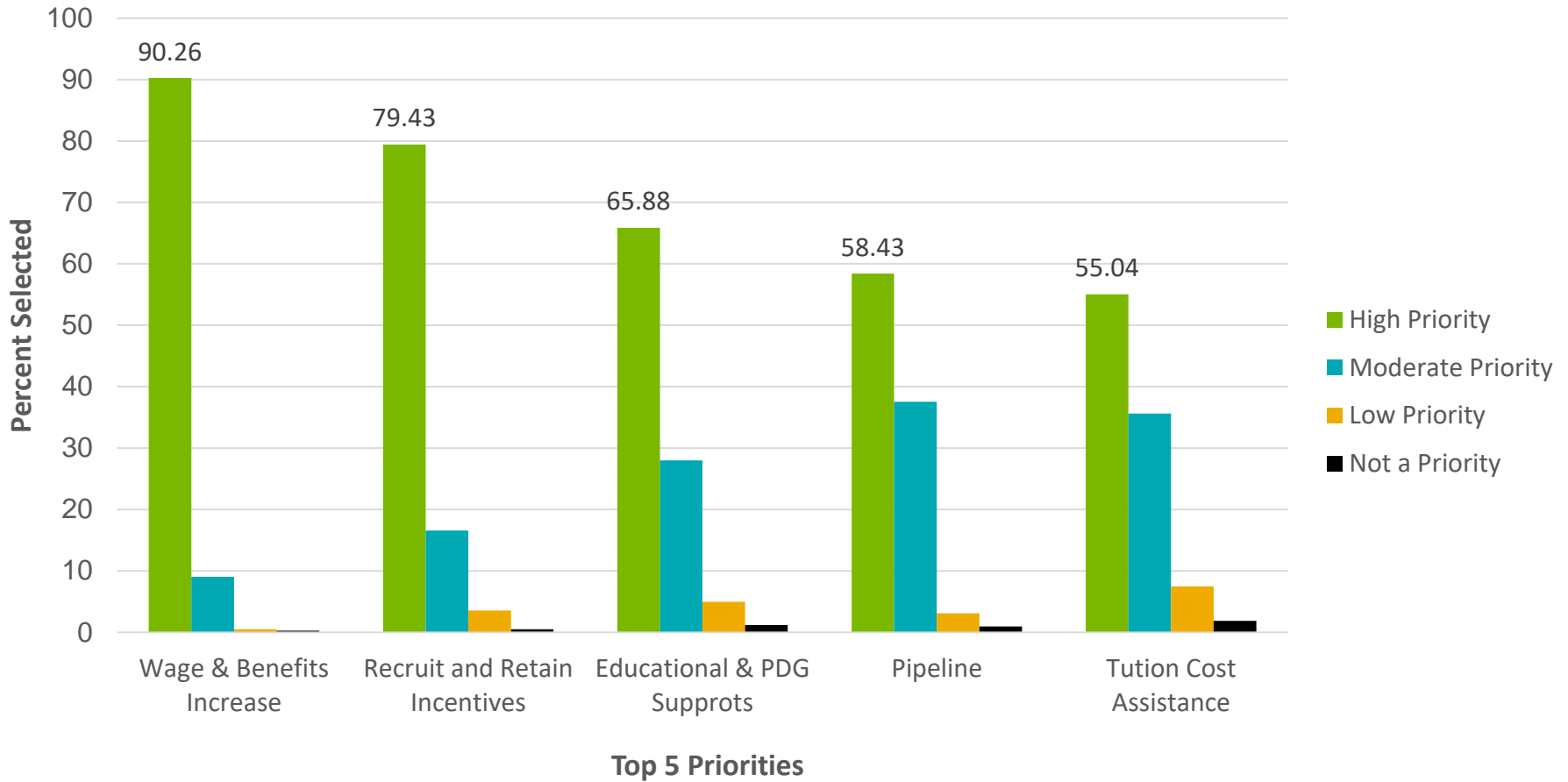
\*Only 34.22% (141) of respondents are part of a local/regional collaborative, coalition and/or network





# Top Priorities

Survey Top Priorities



# Top Priority Descriptions

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1. Workforce: Explore **wage and benefit increase** options
2. Workforce: Explore **recruit and retain incentives** including bonuses, help with background check costs, etc.
3. Workforce: Offer **educational and professional development supports** such as college and technical tuition, CDA, apprenticeships
4. Workforce: Build **pipeline** for future staffing
5. Family & children: Increase equity and access through **tuition cost assistance**



# Top Priority per Category

- Workforce: Explore **wage and benefit** increase options
- Providers: Provide grants and guidance for **expansion/new programs** in areas with low income and low supply
- Family & Children: Increase equity and access through **tuition cost assistance**
- Head Start & Early Head Start (1): **Expand programming** and opportunities with partnerships
- Regional (1): Leverage existing work and support work of **7 PDG networks**
- Business/Employers (1): **Link business and child care** through initiatives, grants and partnerships



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# CLIFF EFFECT RECOMMENDATIONS



# Cliff Effect Child Care Recommendations & Updates

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Recommendation	Change – law, rule, state plan	Total Additional Cost/Year	How this mitigates the Cliff Effect
Employer support of child care	COVID plans to OCC	\$1,000,000.00 FF- Child Care ARP	Assists with the cost of child care, which enables more families to work and have more of their income available to their family.
Increase eligibility to 250% of FPL for CCDF scholarship	COVID Plans to OCC Administrative Rule	\$2,000,000.00 FF- Child Care ARP	Child care is a significant decision point for parents when it comes to working. Increasing the eligibility will provide increased access for assistance with the cost of child care and enable more parents to work.
Raise state payment rates for non-traditional hours	COVID Plan to OCC	\$500,000.00 FF- Child Care ARP	This allows more parents to work in industries that need workers during non-traditional hours. This expands access for workers to enter the workforce and increases the pool for employers.
Adjust Steps within CCDF scholarship	State Plan, Administrative Rule	None	This results in less movement in how much a parent pays as their income increases, making child care affordable, which encourages a person to work, and results in more income for the family.



# Cliff Effect Child Care Recommendations & Updates

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The following proposal was reviewed by the HB 4 Working Group and will require additional work to determine if the Department can include these as future strategies as we continue to work towards closing the Cliff Effect.

Recommendation	Change – law, rule, state plan	Total Additional Cost/Year	How this mitigates the Cliff Effect
Provide payment based on enrollment not attendance based child care	CCDF Plan Amendment, State Rule, if permanent. COVID Plan for piloting	TBD	Providing a predictable and dependable income to the child care providers may 1) increase the number of child care providers who accept CCDF and 2) reduce the need to balance bill parents, resulting in increased options and income for working parents.

Page 5 of Cliff Effect Final Report

By January 31, 2022, the Department will make recommendations regarding enrollment based child care payments. The Department will work together with a workgroup that includes, but is not be limited to representatives from: the Whole Families Approach to Jobs Chapter, Child Care Advisory Council Executive Team, stakeholders, parents, and child care providers.

Page 6 of Cliff Effect Final Report



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# EARMARKED ITEMS



# Earmarked Items to Date

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- Family Focused Investments
- Workforce Investments
- Quality Investments
- Expanded Access Investments
- Building State/Regional Infrastructure Investments
- EC/SA Business Best Practice Investments





Ellyn Schreiber

# EARLY CHILDHOOD REGIONAL SYSTEM



# Early Childhood Regional System Vision

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- A collaborative system, engaging families, community partners and schools
- Reflecting true partnerships between the Department of Health and Human Services, (DHHS) and the Department of Education, (DOE) at the regional and state levels
- A coordinated statewide system of regional partners that builds capacity, equips families to support children's readiness for learning, supports family engagement and wellbeing, and encourages quality programs across the state



# The Statewide Early Childhood Regional Structure

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- Enhances Early Childhood Care and Education, (ECCE)-School-Family Support Partnerships
- Regional community partners are connected by Regional Leads
- Regional Leads are connected to each other and to state partners
- Coordination, collaboration and communication within and between Regions and State Partners is supported



# Key Functions of Regional Leads

- Fully engage families and community partners and schools
- Coordinate, collaborate, and communicate with community partners and schools within the region, and with neighboring regions
- Coordinate, collaborate, communicate, and participate with state partners and identified resources that support regional and statewide system building
- Gather, disseminate, and use integrated data for supporting priorities and decision making
- Address regionally identified gaps and needs
- Connect ECCE, schools and family supports
- Connect ECCE, schools and family supports and external community partners
- Coordinate the distribution of resources as needed



# Implementation Projects (optional)

- Focus: Meeting identified regional needs that **enhance collaboration between ECCE, Schools, and Family Support**
- Proposed project must be informed by regional data and information, including existing needs assessments and strategic plans, input from community and family partners and review of regional mapping data
- Must: support or build school-ECCE-family support collaborations, that improve quality of, or increase access to ECCE, and/or expand use of evidence based practices.
- Projects may have more than one goal area. Examples:
  - Developing and apply consistent transition best practices between licensed and home-based ECCE and kindergarten
  - Co-locating school, family support and/or ECCE services
  - Expanding evidence-based home visiting for those not currently eligible, with increased focus on program-school or program-ECCE transitions
  - Developing/expanding ECCE and school programs which support social emotional development.
  - Increasing integration of health, nutrition, and mental health services, screening and supports within existing early childhood education programs, school, or family support program
- Can be used to expand existing projects, can incorporate existing PDG implementation projects



Brittany Little

# CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS



# Closing and Next Steps

- Next meeting: Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00-10:00 AM
- Tasks:
  - Review data summaries
  - Review presentation
  - Come prepared to next meeting with recommendation proposals to discuss
- Criteria for Recommendations:
  - Adheres to all State and Federal Guidelines and Requirements for ARPA and CCDF Funds
  - Extent to which the recommendation the potential for broad sustainable positive impact for children, families, and programs
  - Has been identified as a priority by stakeholders such as the Office of Child Care, Office of Head State, Legislator, and others as applicable

